FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 061

27 March 1980

ARGENTINA

Government Launches Political Dialog B 1
Judge Rejects Mrs Peron's Release on Bail B 1
Special U.S. Envoy Smith Meets With Pastor B 1

BOLIVIA

Cabinet Resignations Confirmed; Reorganization Underway C 1
Coup Threat 'Dispelled'; Media on Strike C 1
Priests Receive Death Threats From Rightwing Groups C 2
'Massive' Demonstration Marks Espinal Funeral C 2
Cooperation Commission With Soviets Created C 2
[PRESENCIA 20 Mar]

CHILE

Split With Philippines Delayed; Special Envoy Awaited E 1
Ambassador Lemay Arrived From Manila E 1
Spokesman Says Cubillos Firing Will Not Cause Crisis E 1
Cubillos Comments on Firing E 1
Government Begins Restructuring Foreign Service E 1
EL MERCURIO Criticizes Firing of Cubillos E 2
PDC Leader Zaldivar Attacks Government E 2
Briefs: Fatal Bombing; Singapore Businessmen E 3

COLOMBIA

Reportage on Continuing Embassy Negotiations F 1
Seventh Round Begins F 1
Communique No 19 F 1
M-19 to Vienna F 1
Austria Denies Report F 1
M-19 Denies Tad Szulc Article in New York TIMES F 1
Legislators Request Mediation by Amnesty International F 2

ECUADOR

Roldos Names Rodrigo Paz as Finance Minister G 1
Official Denies Government Is Extremist G 1
Briefs: Petroleum Discovery G 1

PARAGUAY

Man Arrested in Caaguazu Incident Dies in Custody [ABC COLOR 25 Mar] H 1
Police Explain Death [ABC COLOR 26 Mar] H 1
EL PUEBLO Condemns Killing of Peasants [20 Mar] H 2

VENEZUELA

Foreign Minister Pays Secret Visit to Costa Rica L 1
Paper Says Colombia Asked for Aid To Pay Hostage Ransom L 1

PANAMA

Royo Discusses Central American Situation With Ohira N 1
Columnist Says Carter's Letter to Royo 'Encouraging' N 1
[LA REPUBLICA 23 Mar]
MATUTINO Writer Critical [25 Mar] N 2
Columnist Decries 'Arrogance' [MATUTINO 24 Mar] N 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Majano Cancels 12-Day Visit to Far East P 1
Ballistics Experts To Probe Romero's Death P 1
ERP Acknowledges Bombings, Condemns Romero's Death P 2
ANEP Condemns Romero Murder, Urges Peace P 3
Ungo Blames Junta for 'Continuous Warfare' P 3
DIARIO DE HOY Continues Series on White Appointment [21 Mar] P 4
Guerrilla Says FARN Ready for Insurrection P 5

GUATEMALA

Army Condemns Zepeda's Death; PGT Claims Credit P 5

NICARAGUA

Ramirez, Arce Discuss Results of European Tour P 6
Sixteen Somozists at Colombian Embassy Depart P 8
First Militia Battalion Formed in Managua Suburb P 9
Ramirez Mercado Discusses Herrera Campins Visit P 9

CUBA

FAR Stresses Combat Readiness Against U.S. Aggression Q 1
U.S. 'Spreading Lies' About Soviet Chemical Warfare Q 1
Delegates Address Uruguayan Solidarity Conference Q 2
Conference Continues Q 3
Conference Ends Q 3
Fascism, Imperialism Condemned at Class Structure Forum Q 4
CPSU Officials Visit Friendship Association Q 4

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA

Discussions With U.S. for Gairy Extradition Underway S 1

JAMAICA

Manley Unexpectedly Withdraws From Socialist Meeting S 1
Prime Minister To Meet Fidel Castro 26 Mar S 2
Financial Obligations To Be Fulfilled S 2
National Government Workers' Strike Settled S 2
Concern Over U.S. Embassy's Cameras Questioned
[DAILY GLEANER 17 Mar] S 3

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES POLITICAL DIALOG

PY262056 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2045 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM)--Shortly before 1730 today, Interior Minister Albano Eduardo Harguindeguy met with Jose de Cara and Alberto Natale, leaders of the Progressive Democratic Party, thus launching the dialog which the armed forces will conduct with the various national sectors through the Interior Ministry.

JUDGE REJECTS MRS PERON'S RELEASE ON BAIL

PY270147 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1829 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA)--Federal Judge Pedro Carlos Narvaez today turned down a request for the release on bail of former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron in one of the four cases she has pending before federal metropolitan courts. Thus, every possibility for the former president's release--requested by her lawyer--has vanished.

Furthermore, this afternoon Judge Norberto Gilletta also ruled on another request for release on bail filed by the former president, but this ruling was not disclosed because the judge said Mrs Person should be notified first.

SPECIAL U.S. ENVOY SMITH MEETS WITH PASTOR

PY242303 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2122 GMT 24 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (NA)--Argentina and the United States agreed today to "continue to contribute to the improvement of bilateral relations and to use permanent consultation as a means of strengthening those relations," according to an official communique released by the Foreign Ministry.

The communique was issued at the end of the first of a number of talks between Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos W. Pastor and Ambassador Gerard Smith, President Jimmy Carter's special envoy. The meeting, which according to responsible sources will be followed by another tomorrow, was held at the San Martin Palace. The official communique reads as follows:

"The first of a number of talks was held today between Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos W. Pastor and Ambassador Gerard Smith, head of the U.S. mission, as a continuation of the meeting held at the end of January with special U.S. envoy Gen Andrew Goodpaster, when it was agreed to continue to contribute to the improvement of bilateral realtions and to use permanent consultation as a means of strengthening those relations.

"Against this background, specific topics in bilateral relations were studied, regarding political, economic and technical aspects, including international problems, particularly as far as common Argentine-U.S. interests are concerned.

"On the Argentine side the meeting was attended by Col Carlos Cavandoli, under secretary for foreign relations: Jorge Aja Espil, Argentine ambassador to the United States; and officials of the Argentine Foreign Ministry. The U.S. group, presided over by Ambassador Smith, was composed of Raul Castro, U.S. ambassador to Argentina; Klaus Russer, East Coast director of the Department of State [as received]; Allan W. Locke, adviser on questions of nuclear nonproliferation; and officials of the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires."

CABINET RESIGNATIONS CONFIRMED; REORGANIZATION UNDERWAY

PY262348 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2317 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar (LATIN)--President Lidia Gueiler became free tonight to reorganize her cabinet when the collective resignation of her 18 ministers was confirmed.

Foreign Minister Julio Garret Ayllon left a cabinet session which began at 2000 GMT at government palace and reported to the press that "the need has appeared for a total renewal of the cabinet." He added that the president has been given a free hand to restructure the executive team "according to the situation and the occasion and after the consultation she may find suitable."

Official government sources told LATIN tonight that Mrs Gueiler will retain the present ministers at their posts "for another few days," while she consults political, congressional and labor sectors regarding the appointment of their successors.

COUP THREAT 'DISPELLED'; MEDIA ON STRIKE

PY261143 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0937 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 26 Mar (LATIN)--A call for popular mobilization in defense of democracy has today dispelled the threat of a new coup apparently posed by a military group in Santa Cruz Department yesterday.

The National Congress and large sectors of the country--including the labor movement, 23 political parties, the Catholic and Protestant churches, universities and other organizations--called on the people last night for the immediate formation of "committees for the defense of democracy" in the cities, rural areas, mines and factories.

The call, asking the government for the total reorganization of the cabinet to safeguard the forthcoming 29 June elections, denounced the existence of an "antinational conspiracy which seeks to stain the country with blood and carry out a new coupist adventure."

President Gueiler's government sent a commission of high military officers to Santa Cruz yesterday to determine the scope of the alleged military movement. Official sources indicated that the military report would be received only today. Government spokesmen said last night that this abnormal situation was overcome and that there is "complete tranquillity" in Santa Cruz and the rest of the country.

A high military source, which did not want to be identified until the executive branch receives the military report, told LATIN last night that the tension in Santa Cruz--worsened by explosions and machinegun fire early in the morning--was the result of "a plan of a few officers." This source added that these officers, whose objectives were not specified, "found no support and were rejected by all units of the garrison." It added: "Therefore, the situation (in Santa Cruz) is under complete control, and there is no reason to fear a rupture of the firm commitment of the armed forces in support of the democratic process."

Meanwhile, a total communications silence prevails in Bolivia today as a result of the 24-hour strike ordered by press enterprises and press, radio and television unions in repudiation of the kidnaping and murder last Saturday of Jesuit priest Luis Espinal, former director of a leftist weekly, by a clandestine ultrarightist group. There are no newspapers in the entire country today, and radio and television stations stopped broadcasting at midnight last night.

In condemnation of the priest's murder, labor activities in the country will be paralyzed for 15 minutes today--between 1545 and 1600 GMT--by order of the Bolivian Labor Central (COB).

PRIESTS RECEIVE DEATH THREATS FROM RIGHTWING GROUPS

PY250059 Paris AFP in Spanish 0039 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (AFP)--It became known here today that several Bolivian Jesuits and priests with progressive leanings have received death threats from ultrarightist commandos.

Church officials have publicly showed their concern over these repeated threats, particularly after the murder of the Spanish-Bolivian Jesuit Luis Espinal 48 hours ago.

The government has promised to safeguard the lives of the priests who have received threats in an atmosphere of rumors of alleged subversive preparations in some cities of the country, it was added.

'MASSIVE' DEMONSTRATION MARKS ESPINAL FUNERAL

PY251353 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] The funeral of priest Espinal took place yesterday afternoon among demonstrations of grief and outrage over this barbaric murder. In a massive demonstration, labor, professional, student and university organizations, government officials, political leaders, congressmen and the people in general attended Luis Espinal's funeral.

The funeral procession to the cemetery had two different aspects. Many people demonstrated their grief by weeping. Others, the younger ones, openly shouted slogans condemning the perpetrators of this despicable crime and accusing fascism of responsibility for it.

COOPERATION COMMISSION WITH SOVIETS CREATED

PY261818 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Mar 80 p 13 PY

[Excerpt] The intergovernmental Bolivian-Soviet economic and scientific cooperation commission has been created with the signing of the appropriate note of intent, which must now be endorsed by the respective governments through an agreement that will be signed in Moscow soon. The note of intent was signed yesterday at the Foreign Ministry by Gonzalo Acha, general director of the Foreign Ministry economic affairs department, and Anatoly Manjonok of the USSR Foreign Trade Ministry, head of the Soviet delegation that arrived in La Paz last week.

Also present at yesterday's ceremony were members of the Bolivian and Soviet delegations, Foreign Minister Julio Garret Ayllon, Soviet Ambassador Boris Kazantzev and Carlos Serrate Reich, Bolivian ambassador to Moscow.

SPLIT WITH PHILIPPINES DELAYED; SPECIAL ENVOY AWAITED

PY262210 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2126 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 26 Mar (LATIN)--It was officially announced today that the Philippine Government will send an ambassador on a special mission to Santiago to explain the reasons it had for canceling President Augusto Pinochet's visit to Manila, in an apparent effort to prevent the breaking off of relations between the two countries.

P. Romualdez, Philippine ambassador to Washington, who is known as an influential politician and uncle of Imelda Marcos, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos' wife, will be in charge of the delicate mission, a spokesman of the Chilean Foreign Ministry revealed. Romualdez has left Washington for Manila to pick up a letter which President Marcos will send to his Chilean counterpart to explain the case, he added.

The same spokesman said that the breaking off of diplomatic relations with the Philippines, announced by Pinochet's government when he returned on Monday from his interrupted trip to Southeast Asia, has been suspended by order of the president. According to the spokesman, a decision will be made after a thorough study of the Philippine Government's explanations. On the other hand, the Foreign Ministry has called diplomat Eduardo Jara to Santiago; he was in charge in Nandi, Fiji, of the preparations for the president's trip, which he had been coordinating since September.

AMBASSADOR LEMAY ARRIVES FROM MANILA

PY261328 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0157 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Chilean Ambassador to the Philippines Carlos Lemay arrived in Santiago this evening. He had been summoned by the government to report fully on the reasons which led President Ferdinand Marcos to cancel Gen Augusto Pinochet's visit to the Philippines.

Lemay was met by the navy under secretary general, Rear Adm Sergio Sanchez, and Foreign Ministry General Director Javier Illanes. As soon as he got off the plane, Lemay entered a car belonging to the navy that was awaiting him, thus avoiding about 50 journalists who wanted to interview him. Ambassador Lemay will be received by President Pinochet tomorrow.

SPOKESMAN SAYS CUBILLOS FIRING WILL NOT CAUSE CRISIS

PY261733 Paris AFP in Spanish 1707 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 26 Mar (AFP)--An official spokesman said here today that the resignation of the Chilean foreign minister, Hernan Cubillos, will not unleash a crisis within President Augusto Pinochet's cabinet.

The spokesman indicated that the departure of the foreign minister is due to the problems that emerged in the Chilean diplomatic service after Pinochet's thwarted trip to the Philippines last weekend.

Cubillos Comments on Firing

PY261900 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Former Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos was resting at his residence today and was asked about the chief of state's decision to request his resignation.

[Begin Cubillos recording] The president has the final responsibility for the management of the country's foreign policy. I have respected this responsibility. He must have made a decision based on information he possesses; therefore I respect that decision. [end recording]

He also said that the failure of Pinochet's trip to Southeast Asia is not the responsibility of the Chilean Foreign Ministry. He emphasized that the Chilean Foreign Ministry's only fault was not having predicted something that was impossible to predict. The former foreign minister also referred to the current state of our country's foreign relations.

[Begin Cubillos recording] Chile has an excellent situation nowadays, and the ability and strength to overcome any kind of obstacle. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT BEGINS RESTRUCTURING FOREIGN SERVICE

PY261759 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1619 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 26 Mar (LATIN)--The Chilean military government today began to put into effect a thorough revision of the structure of the foreign service. This is one of the steps being taken as a consequence of the cancellation of President Augusto Pinochet's visit to the Philippines.

After having asked 46-year-old businessman Hernan Cubillos, who had served as foreign minister for almost 2 years, to resign, the president placed Brig Gen Enrique Valdes Puga in this demanding post. Puga has been involved in diplomatic activities for more than 4 years.

According to unofficial sources, President Pinochet suggested to Cubillos that he resign, but Cubillos' answer was: Mr President, I do not want to abandon the ship. I beg you to request my resignation."

Air Force Commander Brig Gen Fernando Matthei, Navy Commander Adm Jose T. Merino and other high-ranking government officials and civilians visited Cubillos at his home last night.

During an informal interview with journalists, the ousted foreign minister admitted that he was fully responsible for the outcome of the president's trip. He pointed out that "the Foreign Relations Ministry was responsible for the organization of this visit."

Cubillos refuted press commentaries which stated that the Foreign Ministry had withheld a report recommending that this trip be canceled. He stated: "I firmly deny this allegation. There was no information from any private or public institution pointing out the danger of this visit. No information available to the Foreign Ministry was ever kept from the government. This is an absurd invention which I emphatically deny."

EL MERCURIO CRITICIZES FIRING OF CUBILLOS

PY261349 Paris AFP in Spanish 1024 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 26 Mar (AFP)--The influential Chilean newspaper EL MERCURIO stated today that former Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos is not responsible for the failure of President Augusto Pinochet's trip to the Philippines last weekend.

EL MERCURIO, in the lead editorial of its Wednesday issue, states that: "It seems almost incredible that an absurd incident might allow a small political group to try to discredit Minister Cubillos, as well as the entire diplomatic policy of peace, prudence and searching for cordial coexistence with the international community."

In this regard, EL MERCURIO observes: "This small group ignores the fact that this open and flexible international policy is the best safeguard for the development of the independent policy which President Pinochet is carrying out and which is aimed at creating deep transformations in our society."

EL MERCURIO adds: "This isolationist attitude, which amounts to international bravado, will only weaken us abroad even more, while the efforts being conducted to implement a pragmatic and open international policy will really allow us to achieve our national objectives in an environment of peace."

EL MERCURIO concludes by stating: "It should be kept in mind that the causes of the offense to Chile are in the Philippines and that--notwithstanding the administrative review to evaluate the preparation of the unsuccessful visit to the Philippines--it is an exaggeration to magnify possible responsibilities in Chile and particularly to put on Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos' shoulders the alleged guilt for an absolutely sudden and unpredictable event."

PDC LEADER ZALDIVAR ATTACKS GOVERNMENT

PY212010 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 20 Mar (AFP)--The Chilean Christian Democratic leader Andres Zaldivar today charged the military government with stimulating social conflicts which could lead to "an explosion of unfathomable consequences."

Zaldivar is the president of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party [PDC], even though this opposition party was officially disbanded by Gen Augusto Pinochet's government in March 1977.

In a communique released here today, Zaldivar scored the recent banishment of 17 demonstrators arrested by the police, "the repression of university activities," the labor policy and the emergency legal measures which the government has been maintaining for 6 and 1/2 years.

Zaldivar warned that "this situation has reached dangerous extremes, and Chile is living in the midst of a false tranquillity created by propaganda."

He added: "The truth is that day after day the executive is creating the conditions for a future explosion of unfathomable consequences."

Zaldivar, former finance minister under Eduardo Frei's administration (1964-1970), also mentioned the fact that there "are social and economic problems which further help turn the anguish and misery of the majority into violence."

BRIEFS

FATAL BOMBING--Santiago, Chile 24 Mar (AFP)--A bomb exploded today in front of a clinic on the outskirts of Santiago, killing a 10-year-old boy and injuring an 8-year-old girl and a woman. Police are investigating the incident. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY]

SINGAPORE BUSINESSMEN--A delegation of Singapore businessmen who arrived in Chile on Sunday have voiced their desire to increase trade between Singapore and Chile. John Wong, head of the delegation, has stated that its members are interested in purchasing wine, copper, wood and other manufactured articles. They will also meet with representatives of the Iquique and Punta Arenas free zones in order to study the possibility of establishing joint enterprises with Chilean businessmen. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY]

REPORTAGE ON CONTINUING OF EMBASSY NEGOTIATIONS

Seventh Round Begins

PA262048 Paris AFP in Spanish 2023 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 26 Mar (AFP)--The seventh meeting to negotiate the release of the Dominican Embassy hostages began here today at 1511 local time (2011 GMT), with a tightening of security measures. As on previous occasions, participants in these talks include two Colombian Foreign Ministry officials, a guerrilla and Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan.

Communique No 19

PA270127 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has just issued Communique No 19 reporting on developments of the new talks held for 3 hours this afternoon between government representatives and spokesmen of the M-19 group occupying the Dominican Embassy. The talks covered several matters and developed [words indistinct] the communique said.

The presidential Press and Information Secretariat reported that a meeting was held today, 26 March, between the [words indistinct]. The talks began at 1500 and ended at 1750. The government delegates presented the M-19 representatives the last [words indistinct]. The talks covered several matters and developed in the same atmosphere as the previous ones. The government will announce the date of new talks through the same official channels.

M-19 to Vienna

PA261612 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, March 26 (AFP)--Leftist guerrillas holding 29 people captive in the Dominican Embassy here have reached agreement with the Colombian Government to end the month-long siege and fly to Vienna, says a hostage freed yesterday.

Electronic engineer Jorge Cendales told a news conference in his house last night that the members of the M-19 [19 April Movement] who took over the embassy February 27 would fly in a Venezuelan jet with a stopover in Caracas. Mr Cendales was one of three hostages freed yesterday. The guerrillas, who originally took some 50 people hostage, still hold about 20 diplomats among their captives.

Austria Denies Report

AU261310 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1100 GMT 26 Mar 80 AU

[Excerpt] Colombia, Austria--The negotiations between the Dominican Embassy occupiers in Bogota and the government are to be continued today [26 March]. Yesterday three men, Colombian civilians, were released. According to AFP one of these men declared that agreement on settling the hostage affair had been reached in talks between the government and the embassy occupiers. Reportedly, the diplomats are to be flown to Vienna in the next few days in a Venezuelan plane. The Colombian Government, for its part, reportedly promised to release several persons that are being held at present on charges of subversive activities. This report has not been officially confirmed in Bogota, however.

In Vienna a Foreign Ministry spokesman told the Austrian PRESSE-AGENTUR that relevant reports from Colombia had been checked but that there were no indications that they were true.

M-19 DENIES TAD SZULC ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES

PA261832 Paris AFP in Spanish 1557 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 26 Mar (AFP)--The 19 April Movement [M-19] denied here today that it is linked to the recent murder of Fernando Uribe, civil aeronautics director.

In an underground communique delivered today to the Colombian press, the terrorist group blamed the Mafia for the crime perpetrated in Medellin by two individuals riding a motorcycle.

On another subject, the M-19 termed an article by U.S. journalist Tad Szulc published in the New York TIMES as a falsehood from beginning to end. Although Szulc states in his article that he secretly talked with M-19 leaders, today this movement affirms that it is absolutely false that they have talked to Szulc, whom they described as a vulgar merchant of journalism. The M-19 also states that it is absolutely false that Jaime Bateman, one of the organization's top leaders, has been arrested.

In his article, Tad Szulc claims that Bateman was arrested by the army 8 days before the Dominican Embassy was seized.

The communique states that Bateman is somewhere in Colombia fulfilling his duties as a revolutionary and a patriot. Lastly, the M-19 describes itself as a movement formed by sons of workers, peasants, students and intellectuals.

LEGISLATORS REQUEST MEDIATION BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PA262030 Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 26 Mar (AFP)--The Colombian Chamber of Representatives' foreign relations committee requested here today the mediation of Amnesty International to solve the crisis at the Dominican Embassy, where several foreign diplomats are still being held hostage by guerrillas.

According to the committee, the conversations between the Colombian Government and the guerrilla 19 April Movement [M-19] are not making any significant progress and the mediation of Amnesty International, which is a fervent defender of human rights, might be a decisive factor.

The parliamentary body considers that there are two powers in the embassy crisis--a legal one, that of the President Julio Cesar Turbay's government and a de facto one, that of the M-19. Nevertheless, the most fundamental of rights, that of human life, is at stake.

According to the committee, the six rounds of negotiations held so far have not been successful because of the highly antagonistic positions of the two parties in the conflict.

ROLDOS NAMES RODRIGO PAZ AS FINANCE MINISTER

PA251516 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Rodrigo Paz has been appointed finance and credit minister. He will be sworn in at 1130 by President Jaime Roldos. He replaces Fernando Aispazu Seminario, who was asked to resign by President Roldos on Friday.

OFFICIAL DENIES GOVERNMENT IS EXTREMIST

PA202256 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA

[Raul Zambrano report]

[Excerpt] We are reporting from the presidency's press office, where Alejandro Roman Armendariz, public administration secretary general, who has been harshly criticized and repeatedly questioned as to his performance within President Jaime Roldos' administration, has made important statements.

Here is Roman Armendariz answering each and every one of his critics: [begin recording]

It is not a matter of their wanting to accuse me of being a communist. It is a matter of their wanting to accuse the government of being communist. But facts show this government is profoundly democratic, respects all currents of opinion and will continue to do so because it is a part of the pluralist nature of a society that respects itself.

This government has even denounced extremist positions and their seditious policies. It is, therefore, absurd to accuse it of being an extremist government.

The government's practical work, its search for a universal change, its desire to consolidate democracy and redeem the poor people of this country and its solidarity with the humiliated and punished people of this earth cannot be mistaken, and we reject all ill-intentioned attempts at confusion.

This country needs to change and will do so, not in terms of adjectives, but in terms of the ideas proposed by President Roldos, which are shared by the country.

Gentlemen: I reiterate the democratic vocation of the government and its men, the justness of their political ideas and their determination to head toward a transformation framed by democracy and freedom. [end recording]

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM DISCOVERY--Quito, 11 Mar (AFP)--The Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE) has discovered a new oil deposit in the northeastern Amazon region, only about 20 km from the Colombian border. The well, drilled by CEPE technicians, is called Secoya 1 and produces 6,200 barrels a day. CEPE plans to drill 50 wells in the eastern Amazon region during a 24-month period. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1636 GMT 11 Mar 80 PA]

MAN ARRESTED IN CAAGUAZU INCIDENT DIES IN JAIL

PY251649 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Mar 80 p 13 PY

[Text] Marcelino Casco, a 68-year-old Chaco War veteran who was arrested on 15 March during a police operation apparently related to the holdup of the "Rapido Caaguazu" company bus, died last Friday in the Police Investigations Department.

Casco's death was reported by his wife to the Committee of Churches, which gives emergency assistance.

According to this church organization, Casco's wife learned of his death when she was requested to remove his body from the "Rigoberto Caballero" police hospital.

Casco's widow told the Committee of Churches that the policemen who attended her at the hospital informed her that her husband had died suddenly of a heart attack.

Regarding this case, Inspector Alberto Cantero, director of the policy section of the Investigations Department, stated that he had not been authorized to give any information.

Police Explain Death

PY261547 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Mar 80 p 12 PY

[Text] The Investigations Department has issued a communique on the death of Chaco War veteran Marcelino Casco, about which this paper reported yesterday.

The communique reads as follows:

Regarding a report published in ABC COLOR on Page 13 of its Tuesday 25 March 1980 issue about the death of an arrested person which supposedly occurred on its premises, the public relations office of the Investigations Department of the police must inform the public that:

1. Marcelino Casco had been arrested in the city of Caaguazu, where he resided, by regional authorities and sent to this department on 16 March for questioning about the holdup of a Caaguazu company bus perpetrated on 8 March 1980 at Kilometer 37 of the Stroessner-Asuncion Highway.

2. Cellmates of Casco Alderete gave word that he was not feeling well, and so he was taken to the Rigoberto Caballero Police Hospital to receive medical care. Despite the physicians' efforts, he died there as the result of a "septic shock" (as attested by a medical certificate issued on 25 March) at 0850 on 21 March.

3. To counter any ill-founded or irresponsible information, it must be reported that an autopsy was performed on the body with the written permission of Castro Alderete's relatives and at the express request of the Investigations Department. The autopsy was made on 22 March by the following physicians: Police Officer Carlos Morel, Police Officer Carlos Demetrio Mora, Police Officer Rogelio A. Centurion, Police Officer Julio R. Vazquez, Court Doctor Arnulfo Molinas and Dr Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes.

4. The medical report gives the exact time when Casco Alderete entered the hospital, including the diagnosis at admission time, the clinical diagnosis of the cause of death, the treatment administered and the names of attending physicians. The report also mentions that Criminal Judge Sixto Milciades Rivas Soler and Court Clerk Miguel Gomez were present to order the removal of the body after issuing a certificate stating that "the body was visually inspected and no signs of violence or injury were seen anywhere."

5. In sum, Marcelino Caso Alderete did not pass away at the Investigations Department but at the police hospital, with no visible signs of violence on his body. The cause of death was not a cardiac arrest but a "septic shock", as the medical report says.

EL PUEBLO CONDEMNS KILLING OF PEASANTS

PY202316 Asuncion EL PUEBLO in Spanish 20 Mar 80 p 3 PY

[Text] The communiques released by the Interior Ministry to report on the massacre of peasants carried by the "forces of order" in the Caaguazu area have created real indignation among the informed public.

According to the latest reports from this area, more than 15 peasants are dead. They were reportedly viciously massacred by the "defenders of order," who not only pursued them through the forest but overran peasant houses and indiscriminately inflicted suffering. The alleged "criminals" were reportedly nothing more than exploited humble peasants whose lands had been taken away by large Brazilian landowners and by the people responsible for the "agrarian reform." These peasants, hungry and without land, reportedly were able to form a large group to come to the capital and inform officials of their problems. But they were intercepted by the dreaded police chief of the area, who, brandishing a weapon, tried to prevent them from coming to Asuncion to tell about the rural drama. As a result, the first exchange of fire reportedly took place. The police chief was wounded, and with the arrival of additional soldiers--through despicable treachery--the peasants were viciously murdered without any compassion.

As a result of this event, several hungry peasants came out in defense of their persecuted colleagues. They were also murdered "as communist subversives."

How well this era of peace and progress is coming along!

Peasants are murdered in a cowardly manner and everything continues the same. Lies are used shamelessly to confound public opinion, and communiques are released to "cover up" the crimes of subordinate officials.

While this is taking place in the middle of the eastern part of the country, the Agrarian Reform Institute (IBR) continues to sell land to large Brazilian landowners, to the detriment of the land's legitimate occupants!

Long live the second reconstruction!

Long live the stubborn defenders of human rights!

Long live the eternal Colorado Party (not the party in exile) with Stroessner!

FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS SECRET VISIT TO COSTA RICA

PA241318 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1924 GMT 22 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 22 Mar (ACAN-EPE)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco secretly visited Costa Rica on Thursday and met for 3 hours with Jose Rafael Cordero, Costa Rican minister of the presidency [title as received; FBIS files list Jorge Poveda Quiros as Costa Rican minister of the presidency].

This was reported in today's issue of the local morning newspaper, LA REPUBLICA. The paper noted that the Central American political situation, especially the situation in El Salvador and Nicaragua, was discussed during the meeting.

The newspaper also noted that Minister Cordero has confirmed the visit of the Venezuelan foreign minister. The newspaper reports that there has been a rumor that the representative of the government of President Luis Herrera Campins visited San Jose to express solidarity with the San Jose government on behalf of the Venezuelan Christian Democracy.

In the past few weeks, the political and economic situation in Costa Rica has deteriorated to the point that four former Costa Rican presidents, who have different ideologies, have asked the government to reshuffle the cabinet and the leaderships in the state's autonomous institutions.

PAPER SAYS COLOMBIA ASKED FOR AID TO PAY HOSTAGE RANSOM

PA241633 Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 24 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Mar (AFP)--It was learned here today that Colombia asked several countries, Venezuela included, for economic aid connected with the kidnaping of diplomatic hostages who have been held at the Dominican Embassy in Bogota for the past 26 days, but the governments rejected the proposal.

The Caracas newspaper EL UNIVERSAL today reported that Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos, secretary general of the presidency, traveled to Bogota more than 1 week ago for this reason.

Garcia Bustillos said a few days ago that Venezuela refuses to pay any ransom and that being an ambassador nowadays means running the risk of being kidnaped.

Virgilio Lovera, Venezuelan ambassador to Bogota, is among the diplomats being held hostage by the leftist 19 April Movement he is suffering from high blood pressure.

There were hopes here this morning that he would be released by his captors--who refused to let his wife visit him 2 days ago--in view of his ailment and an ear problem.

ROYO DISCUSSES CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION WITH OHIRA

PA261235 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] President of the Republic Dr Aristides Royo and his retinue have been in Tokyo since Sunday, 23 March, for a 5-day official visit at the invitation of Emperor Hirohito.

Royo met this afternoon with Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, who promised all kinds of economic cooperation with Panama. The two spent more than an hour discussing matters related to the Central American area.

The Panamanian president told Ohira that both the president of Costa Rica, Rodrigo Carazo, and himself have been calling, for some time, for an urgent meeting of presidents of Central America to initiate a dialog and to stop once and for all terrorism, repression and violations of human rights--situations that affect the peace and the stability of the region.

Royo said that this meeting is necessary and for this reason the two countries want it to take place in the near future. It must be pointed out, Royo said, that we are asking for Japanese participation in the studies for the project involving the construction of a new sea-level canal.

COLUMNIST SAYS CARTER'S LETTER TO ROYO 'ENCOURAGING'

PA241700 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Mar 80 p 10-F PA

[From Sumario Dominical column]

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has sent a conciliatory letter to President Royo on the eve of Royo's trip to Japan. In this letter, Carter expresses his decision to cooperate in the solution of the problems which may appear in the operation of the canal.

Carter affirms that many of the problems stated in Royo's letter "do not seem to be a result of legal requirements and, therefore, we do not need the legislative process to tackle them."

Mr Carter also says: "I agree with your opinion on the importance of observing the first stages of the treaty implementation," adding: "as you know, the law of 1979 states that I should make recommendations to Congress before 1 October 1981 on the changes necessary to implement the law. In preparing for this task, it is important that we identify the specific problems that can be attributed to the law in itself."

The conciliatory tone of the U.S. President's letter is undoubtedly encouraging since it tells us that despite the negative actions of the conservative forces in the United States, President Carter is willing to pave the way for the expeditious operation of the canal, solve all the problems which do not require the intervention of the legislative branch and prepare the necessary modifications to present them to Congress on 1 October 1981.

Mr Carter's stand is encouraging. He has once more shown his good will in the matters related to the canal even if he cannot act freely because of the actions of the enemies of Panama.

President Royo must remain vigilant concerning the canal problems and put all the country's brains to work on this in order to define the difficulties and solve the problems.

MATUTINO Writer Critical

PA261257 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 25 Mar 80 p 4-A PA

[Harmodio Icaza article: "The Former Shah's Stay"]

[Excerpts] When Panama responded promptly and in good faith to the U.S. State Department's request that the former shah be offered refuge, this column applauded the gesture because it was a matter of cooperating in an international crisis involving a friendly country with the lives of 50 human beings at stake. History will know at the right time how to judge the Panamanian gesture.

At first glance it seemed that the arrival of the deposed Iranian monarch could not create any greater complications for us than the time and effort the Panamanian Government would have to invest to protect his life. Internationally, our relations with Iran were nonexistent and, therefore, there could be no significant reprisals.

Nonetheless, in my view, this gesture of good will by the Panamanian Government would bring as its immediate consequence a further expansion of the ties of friendship between Panama and the United States. It would be impossible to deny that the former shah's stay in our country helped reduce international tension.

It would also be impossible to deny that in light of the upcoming U.S. election campaign, the former shah's presence in Panama and, therefore, his absence from the United States, enabled President Carter to consolidate his position within his party to the point that at no time could the Iranian crisis be used against the U.S. President.

Thus, anybody who analyzes the Panamanian gesture will have to conclude that it was essentially a very noble act, significantly benefited President Carter and constituted an undeniable display of friendship by the Panamanian people toward Americans.

It is because of this and much more that I have been extremely surprised that President Carter's letter to President Royo was cold and uneventful, because even if we had never received the former shah, the Panamanian president's charges deserved a specific and positive response rather than the indifference with which Carter has dismissed the gravity of all the charges that were made.

It is clear and evident that violations will continue and that we must once again prepare ourselves for a fierce struggle aimed at enforcing our rights as established in the treaties, because if the Panamanian gesture in connection with the former shah did not lead to a better reception of our charges, then the situation is extremely critical. True, we did it without setting any conditions but...noblesse oblige. Obviously, we were wrong.

Columnist Decries 'Arrogance'

PA260450 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 24 Mar 80 p 4-A PA

[From "Lunes de Glosas" column by Harmodio Icaza]

[Text] It is incredible that Panama should have expected that President Carter's reply to President Royo's 9 January letter would be an assurance of anything. It was just passing the buck and was a token of arrogance by the stronger to the weaker party.

The letter itself slights President Royo because the Panamanian president made some serious, specific denunciations for which President Carter at least should have ordered an extensive investigation into the matter. The use of empty words without a commitment of some sort while the treaty is being violated is hurtful.

EL SALVADOR

MAJANO CANCELS 12-DAY VISIT TO FAR EAST

PA270242 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] According to international reports from San Salvador, Salvadoran junta member Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano today canceled a trip to Taiwan and Japan originally slated for tomorrow because of the country's difficult circumstances in the wake of the assassination of Archbishop Romero.

Sources close to the Taiwanese Embassy in San Salvador confirmed that the visit had been canceled.

Colonel Majano, who observers describe as the Salvadoran strongman, had planned to leave tomorrow for Taiwan and Japan, where he was to stay 12 days at the invitation of the governments of those countries.

Observers, meanwhile, feel that the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero might make thousands of moderates join the left at a time when the leftists had seemed to be losing support. A Romero collaborator, who refused to be identified for security reasons, commented that many who had followed the monsignor's ideas are now asking themselves, what good is there in continuing to be a moderate in a country of extremes?

Although there is no specific evidence, most of the authorities, government and church members and people in general believe that Romero was killed Monday by a professional assassin contracted by the extreme right.

BALLISTICS EXPERTS TO PROBE ROMERO'S DEATH

PA260402 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0137 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[By Mauro Espinoza Fernandez]

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Foreign ballistics experts will be brought to El Salvador by the Salvadoran archbishopric to analyze the fragments of the bullet which killed Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, a source of the archbishopric reported this afternoon.

Roberto Cuellar, a member of the archbishopric's legal aid department, added that the presence of the experts will be requested "because we do not have great hopes in Salvadoran justice."

He added that the bullet which killed Archbishop Romero was a "dumdum" bullet. He said it is impossible to determine the caliber and other characteristics before the experts' report is issued. Cuellar also disclosed that the bullet entered "some 9 centimeters from the left clavicle and 3 centimeters from the archbishop's breastbone, with most of the splinters lodging in the fifth dorsal rib."

Archbishop Romero fell wounded shortly after ending his sermon in the evening Mass he daily celebrated in the chapel of the Divina Providencia Cancer Hospital in northwest San Salvador. Eyewitnesses said Romero did not die immediately but upon his arrival at the Policlinica Salvadorena, a private hospital a few kilometers away from the chapel. According to Cuellar, the assassin was reportedly at the western entrance of the basilica from where he shot the archbishop.

"These were people who are experts in this type of criminal and abominable action because it was the life of the monsignor," Cuellar added. [sentence as received] Cuellar indicated that the investigations so far undertaken by Salvador justice "have not led to sufficient or necessary proof."

He also said there is no proof that the assassin was a foreigner. He indicated that there is sufficient testimony by witnesses to indicate that four people participated in the assassination, although "only one opened fire."

Initial reports had indicated that the assassin's companions had opened fire to distract the attention of the witnesses so the assassin could escape.

"Justice has not always been very brilliant in this country," the spokesmen of the Salvadoran Archbishopric said to justify their distrust over the results of the investigations which the Salvadoran judicial branch has begun. Msgr Ricardo Urioste, who was appointed vicar to temporarily replace the assassinated archbishop, said that he could not precisely state who the assassins were. "Those who killed Monsignor Romero are those who are against justice and truth and those who, because of their hatred, are against love, Urioste said. He added that Romero taught those three principles: justice, truth and love.

"It would be better to ask the people what they think, what they infer," he said.

The archbishopric's spokesmen said they had not made any specific demand to the Revolutionary Government Junta. The junta has promised to undertake an exhaustive investigation of the crime.

"In many cases of violence we have unsuccessfully presented proof so we do not think we will be successful in this case," the spokesmen added. In any case, they added, the demand is before the Salvadoran people. "We have more hopes in divine justice than in man's justice," they said.

Urioste said that "it would be wonderful if Monsignor Romero's death would help stop the crimes in this country."

The assassinated archbishop had distinguished himself for his constant condemnations of the actions of the government as well as his criticisms of the violent acts of the extreme rightwing and extreme leftwing.

Msgr Oscar Romero's body is lying in state in the Sacred Heart Basilica across from the ACAN-EFE office. Vehicle traffic has been interrupted in several blocks around the basilica due to the long lines of supporters of Archbishop Romero who are waiting to see his remains for the last time. It is believed that Monsignor Romero will be buried on Sunday in a ceremony that will attract crowds never before seen in El Salvador for the funeral of a well-known personality. Delegations of other Latin American churches and of several Central American countries will attend the funeral.

ERP ACKNOWLEDGES BOMBINGS, CONDEMNS ROMERO'S DEATH

PA260433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0249 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Bombs set off at dawn today at various points in El Salvador by the Marxist Revolutionary Peoples Army (ERP) caused property damage estimated at more than $1 million.

An ERP communique indicated that the bombs were set off in the cities of San Salvador, Santa Tecla, Santa Ana, Ahuachapan, San Miguel and Usulutan with a total of 40 explosive charges. According to the ERP, its targets were falsely nationalized banks, houses in the oligarchic residential areas, houses of extreme rightwing activists and commercial centers in the oligarchic areas.

The ERP said the action was carried out to protest what it described as the "criminal repressive campaign unleashed against the popular, revolutionary and democratic organizations."

It indicated that in the framework of this campaign the Salvadoran people were shaken by the distressing news of the assassination of one of their beloved leaders, Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdamez.

According to general opinion, Romero was killed by an expert marksman on Monday night when he was holding Mass in a cancer hospital near where he lived in San Salvador.

The ERP indicared that the condemnable crime was committed by imperialism, the oligarchy and reactionary sectors to stop the courageous and heroic role of Msgr Oscar Romero, who defended the cause of peace and sought a peaceful solution for the people's liberation. The ERP praised Monsignor Romero, stressing that he defended justice.

ANEP CONDEMNS ROMERO MURDER, URGES PEACE

PA270136 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The National Association of Private Enterprise (ANEP) has sent the following press release to our news center:

In condemning those responsible for the assassination of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, ANEP President Jose Eduardo Palomo Castillo has stated that this incident has shaken the national conscience and that the archbishop's death does not contribute to the cause of peace, which all Salvadorans aspire to.

The bulletin adds that the attack that put an end to the life of the representative of the Salvadoran Catholic Church is an example of the current breakdown of the country's moral and spiritual values, as the life of a church dignitary, the shepherd of a large part of the Salvadoran people who practice the Catholic faith, has not been respected.

The monster of violence, the release says, threatens to destroy Salvadoran society. Irrationality, fanaticism, hatred and insatiable criminal instincts are pushing our country toward a fratricidal war. The sinister minds directing this conspiracy against our fatherland have put an end to the life of yet another Salvadoran.

It is very clear, Palomo Castillo continues, that the great majority of our people oppose violence as a means of making political positions and ideological principles prevail. May the violence surrounding us serve to make everyone meditate with profound Christian sincerity and help us reconstruct peace in El Salvador through our unified effort and will. Only through understanding, justice and love can we oust the abominable monster of violence from our long-suffering fatherland.

UNGO BLAMES JUNTA FOR 'CONTINUOUS WARFARE'

PA260233 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0242 GMT 24 Mar 80 PA

[By Horacio Serafini]

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Mar (EFE)--The Salvadoran Government is "encouraging a state of continuous warfare," by its policy of reforms with repression, Guillermo Ungo, leader of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) of El Salvador, said today in this capital.

For this reason, the MNR leader said, "This improved and expanded Romeroism [a reference to former President Romero] which "provides for the death penalty through the military troops" for opposition political activity, "cannot be consolidated."

Interviewed by EFE, Ungo said that the government junta--of which he was a member from October of last year until January--"has divorced itself from the people and now represents nothing more than a pact between the rightwing of the army and the rightwing of the Christian Democratic Party."

The MNR desires an unarmed, political solution in El Salvador, "but we cannot fail to see that our people, who are attacked, oppressed and repressed, are responding with arms," Ungo said. "The only alternative is a democratic, revolutionary government that is respectful of ideological pluralism and is made up of all the popular forces that support antioligarchic changes."

Ungo described his movement as Salvadoran "democratic socialism." He said that this united government must be based on the merger of the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses (CRM), democratic sectors, the MNR, progressive Christian Democratic sectors and independent labor unions and associations. The CRM is made up of the United Popular Action Front (FAPU), the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the 28 February Peoples Leagues (LP-28) and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN).

"As San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Oscar Romero has said," Ungo continued, there is a strong basis of agreement and the possibility of agreeing on a plan and program of broad popular support.

Regarding the army, Ungo said that the "definition of positions between its rightist and progressive sectors will be decisive" in avoiding civil war in El Salvador.

Ungo later referred to reports of U.S. interference in El Salvador. He said that "if the United States becomes increasingly involved in the military sphere, it would mean another Vietnam for Washington, not only in El Salvador, but throughout the area.

"Neither restricted repression nor restricted democracy are solutions for my country, because the people have achieved a considerable degree of organization and mobilization which has expanded their level of struggle," Ungo said.

Ungo also referred to the Socialist International, of which the MNR is a full member, and its conference on Latin America and the Caribbean which will take place this week in Santo Domingo.

"At the Socialist International meeting, we will explain the unfeasibility of the Salvadoran Government's plan and expand the level of international solidarity," Guillermo Ungo concluded.

DIARIO DE HOY CONTINUES SERIES ON WHITE APPOINTMENT

PA221502 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 80 pp 7, 21 PA

[Third part of article by Rafael Asbun: "Other Countries in the Face of the Leftist Problem"]

[Excerpts] The exchange of opinions which took place in the U.S. Congress during hearings on the appointment of Robert E. White as ambassador to El Salvador met an obstacle in the Senate: the U.S. role in preventing El Salvador from becoming another Cuba, because the government junta obviously lacks popular support and is trying to improvise last minute solutions to problems which have existed for decades and during a period of so much unrest.

Senator Helm's second question dealt with the U.S. role in preventing the extreme left from seizing power in El Salvador.

The U.S. senator asked questions to learn about the role of other countries--that is, the role to be played by other governments to restrain the communist drive in El Salvador.

Ambassador White is an intelligent man, but he did not have sufficient knowledge of the situation. Throughout the inquiry, he proved he is an honest government official because he admitted that on agrarian reform he had only read "El Salvador, a Modern World Nation," by Alex B. White which refers to the agrarian policy of the Christian Democratic Party in El Salvador.

Let us end this article with the question and answer at the Senate hearing:

Helms: Do you know the difference between radical left and the emotional left [izquierda apasionada], the latter being sincere defenders of freedom of expression, freedom of the press, honest election and so forth. Do you believe that the emotional left WILL UNDERSTAND YOUR TOLERANCE OF FREE ENTERPRISE? Do you personally believe that the United States should use its influence to support economic freedom as well as political freedom?

White: Yes, I think that the United States should use its influence TO SUPPORT ALL KINDS OF FREEDOM.

GUERRILLA SAYS FARN READY FOR INSURRECTION

PA261546 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla leader Ernesto (Yovel), top leader of the Armed Forces of National Resistance [FARN], has told international news agencies that the FARN is ready for the insurrection. He also said that the U.S. intervention in Salvadoran politics is very similar to the way U.S. intervention started in Vietnam. He told foreign correspondents that 100,000 Salvadorans would answer the first FARN call to go on to another stage in the struggle.

GUATEMALA

ARMY CONDEMNS ZEPEDA'S DEATH; PGT CLAIMS CREDIT

PA241248 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2015 GMT 23 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 23 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The outlawed communist "Guatemalan Labor Party" (PGT) claimed credit today for the killing of Col Maximo Zepeda, one of the Guatemalan military chiefs who fought the leftist guerrillas in the sixties.

In a press communique released to the information media, the PGT reports that one of its armed units killed Colonel Zepeda on Saturday on the highway to the Pacific "to punish him for his crimes against the people."

Police forces today carried out a vast operation in the vicinity of Amatitlan Lake, 28 km from the Guatemalan capital, in search of Colonel Zepeda's attackers.

The Guatemalan Defense Ministry issued a statement condemning the attack against the former military chief.

The statement indicates that "this new act of bloodshed is evidence of the unpatriotic intentions of the subversives, who seek to conquer power through criminal methods to drag the country to chaos and destruction."

"The Guatemalan Army, on extending its condolences for such an irreparable loss to the relatives of Colonel Zepeda, reiterates once more that it will spare no effort to fight the enemies of democracy," the official statement adds.

The statement notes that Colonel Zepeda was 69 and had been in retired status since January 1971.

NICARAGUA

RAMIREZ, ARCE DISCUSS RESULTS OF EUROPEAN TOUR

PA252310 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] During a news conference held at the government house tonight for many national and international reporters, Nicaraguan leaders Sergio Ramirez, a government junta member, and Bayardo Arce, of the national directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, announced the enormous solidarity and economic and political support received during a recent tour of Western countries. Both Sandinist government leaders said the tour achieved major political and economic success. Companero Ramirez Mercado discussed the economic success and Arce Castano, the political success. Aid, for balance of payments purposes, will total $57 million in credit and economic assistance.

Asked about the manipulation of the Sandinist process by the international news agencies, both leaders said the misrepresentation is being conducted at the Latin American level but that the manipulators of information will be put in their place by the history of Sandinism in Nicaragua. All foreign newsmen who were at the news conference voiced their profound concern over the campaign orchestrated against Nicaragua and reiterated their sympathy with the Sandinist people's revolution.

Commander Arce Castano and Ramirez Mercado noted that the distortion campaign is being waged among the European governments and political parties and by some magazines such as CAMBIO 16 and the editors who twist the news wired by correspondents. Local newsmen told Ramirez and Arce that the people must be made aware of who their friends and enemies are. Our leaders said the people know who their real friends are. Companero Ramirez Mercado discussed the details of the economic results of the tour:

[Begin recording] We can say that in the economic area we obtained a new contribution of $14.8 million from the EEC which will be used to buy food to solve the present emergency situation, to provide technical assistance to the agencies and to conduct feasibility studies for various projects including one to develop African palm trees in Nicaragua to extract their oil in the Atlantic region in the south. The EEC also offered to provide assistance to secure food for the literacy brigade members all over the country.

The Belgian Government contributed $1 million in food supplies and raw materials to manufacture medicine and it promised to provide technical assistance to undertake feasibility studies including studies to set up a spinning mill in Nicaragua to make cotton yarn.

In the Netherlands we met the economic cooperation minister, who offered an $8 million contribution for our balance of payments and a $2 million contribution for reconstruction and technical assistance projects. In both Belgium and the Netherlands we met the prime ministers or heads of government.

In the FRG we obtained $14 million in aid for balance of payments purposes and a technical assistance mission of the FRG Economic Cooperation Ministry will come here in April to determine the areas in which Germany will finance preinvestment studies to implement industrial projects.

Part of our mission went to Sweden, where we were guaranteed $8 million in aid which will be used to build the Rivas Hospital and undertake a forest project in the northern Atlantic region.

In Austria, where we met Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, we received support to implement two feasibility studies for projects which are very important to us: one to build a plant to make alcohol from sugarcane to replace imported gasoline or oil, and another to make lumber into cellulose and paper in the northern Atlantic region. With Austrian aid, we will be able to conduct the necessary technical studies to establish the cellulose and alcohol plants in the country. In Austria we also met the OPEC fund authorities who offered an $8 million contribution for the national literacy crusade.

In overall figures, we might say we have obtained about $56 million or $57 million in aid for the balance of payments, credit, donations and emergency aid for our country. The tour also achieved great political success--rapprochement with the political and government leaders in those countries was a great help in the understanding of our revolutionary process in Europe. We also found out that a smear campaign has been mounted against our revolution in those countries but I would like to ask Companero Commander Bayardo Arce to explain these topics to you. [end recording]

Companero Arce Castano reported on the political achievements of his recent official tour of Europe:

[begin recording] Our arrival was arranged by the Secretariat of Solidarity with Nicaragua, which groups all solidarity committees in Europe according to a plan previously outlined by the government junta and the Sandinist front so we could visit a number of European, socialist bloc and Latin American countries to insure international solidarity with our revolution, particularly with regard to the 1980 economic reactivation plan.

At the invitation of the European solidarity secretariat, we contacted all solidarity groups established during the war and staged political rallies in all the countries we visited. In some countries, such as Germany, we had the opportunity of holding open rallies organized for the occasion, not just in one state but in several states.

As planned, we also took the opportunity to exchange political views with various European powers. In Spain we had the opportunity of meeting Santiago Carrillo, secretary general of the Communist Party, and Felipe Gonzalez, secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, with whom we discussed the political experience of the two countries and the possibilities of support that the party might give the Nicaraguan revolutionary process since, due to the parliamentary practice in Europe, parties have clout in government decisionmaking.

In Germany we had the opportunity of meeting the chairman of the German Social Democratic Party, former Chancellor Willy Brandt, and other prominent leaders of that party, including Vice Chairman Koschnick, who has begun rapprochement efforts with Latin America on behalf of the party. He recently paid a visit to and held high-level talks with the Mexican and Cuban governments. He also wanted that rapprochement to include the Nicaraguan revolution. We also met two party foundations devoted to aiding the Third World countries, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. We got the Naumann Foundation to expedite the arrangements made by the Agrarian Reform Institute and the Labor Ministry to finance some projects to provide agrarian training courses by the institute and a sort of assistance institute for small producers, which the Labor Ministry is trying to establish.

With the Ebert Foundation we analyzed the possibility of cooperation at least for the next 5 years to promote agricultural credit for small producers, the [words indistinct] project and other mass training activities.

In Austria we had the opportunity of meeting the head of the parliamentary bloc of the government party, (Hans Tiecher) of the Austrian Socialist Party. This week he will be visiting the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Panama and Nicaragua. We have already held a meeting with him and also with the party president, Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. We discussed politics in addition to the government aid cited by Companero Ramirez.

In Sweden (?and) the Netherlands, meetings were held with political leaders. In Belgium, we met the two presidents of the Belgian socialist parties. They have two parties there. We might say they [words indistinct] since they have the same political positions but just speak different languages. We also met with the Belgian socialist parties which the week after our departure were going to begin a 2-month solidarity event with socialists and influential Belgian circles in support of Nicaragua's revolutionary efforts.

As Companero Ramirez put it, in certain circles in Europe we found a climate already built up by elements opposed to the revolutionary process. Specifically, in the Netherlands and Belgium, we learned of reports that our revolution had begun persecuting the church, Christian unions and trade unions in general. All these reports, which should be explained by the sources themselves, originate with the Latin American Workers Central, an international union organization to which the Nicaraguan Workers Central is affiliated which may be providing the reports [sentence as heard]. In other instances we found some reports which we mentioned yesterday at the plaza [words indistinct] to the media saying we are hiding Spanish aid because we are sending it all to Cuba. These charges are very crude, such as that of the newsman who said [words indistinct] graffiti in Nicaragua saying "return the pieces to us," when no one here ever speaks that way but he claims he saw that painted on the walls. Another thing recounted was the ploy that $100,000 was going to be invested to keep Commander Borge's word that (?Carlos) would be the first word written by the newly trained literates. This is a campaign which luckily our presence there, our frank and open dialog with the various political sectors and the government, and the factual evidence that our country is open to factfinding missions from anywhere in the world--newsmen are constantly coming here, as tendentious newsmen have come here, honest newsmen have come too--contributed to the erasure of such an image. The aid obtained at the government level and through political arrangements indicates that this type of campaign has not done well. Our revolution enjoys credibility in Europe and we can expect their support for our process. A meaningful event that impressed us, and we would like to play up, is that during a solidarity rally in Utrecht, the Netherlands, Dr Ramirez was given $265,000 collected by the solidarity organizations for the literacy campaign. This was a token of an entire campaign underway in Europe to continue supporting not only the literacy campaign but the revolutionary process as a whole. I think after this explanation we might expand the report we want to give the Nicaraguan people and the world on our work through the questions you may want to ask us. [end recording]

SIXTEEN SOMOZISTS AT COLOMBIAN EMBASSY DEPART

PA262038 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The person responsible for the consular department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that 16 [figure as heard] Somozists who had taken refuge at the Colombian Embassy after the revolutionary victory left for Colombia today at 0700 after being granted safe-conduct.

The Somozists include: Jose Ramon Hernandez; Marta Dilia Gutierrez; Patricia Padilla; Ofelia Hernandez; Roberto Campbell; Delva Luna de Campbell and her son; Sara Roque Coronado; two Sanchez Roque children; Brenda Rivers de Jorge; Julio Cesar Espana; Carlos Ernesto Bravo Rojas and Pedro Efrain Santamaria, the son of former Col Efrain Santamaria Suarez, a well-known figure within the Somozist ranks who was an officer of the (ALAC) group of the military academy and member of the Somozist security office. He was also the commander of Jinotega during the insurrection.

We have also learned that the well-known Somozist Carlos Moises Baltodano, who was the former deputy economic integration minister, left the embassy, too.

FIRST MILITIA BATTALION FORMED IN MANAGUA SUBURB

PA261543 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The first battalion of the Sandinist Peoples Militia in the Managua suburbs was formed last night in the Villa Libertad neighborhood. Some 350 militiamen participated in training exercises in front of the school in Villa Libertad last night. Three companies made up of 97 combatants are undergoing infrantry and combat training in the neighborhood in question.

(?Spiro Batis), departmental chief of the militias, told this newscast that the militia will be formed in the Rio Sol neighborhood, now known as Reparto Liberia.

Many people were attracted by the militia exercises which were being carried out in the middle of the street.

RAMIREZ MERCADO DISCUSSES HERRERA CAMPINS VISIT

PA260007 Managua Radio XITO in Spanish 1900 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Interview with Nicaraguan junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado, date and place not given--presumably recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Sergio Ramirez, that great friend of our Nicaraguan revolution, Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, is about to arrive here in Nicaragua. Could you briefly comment on the arrival of this celebrity of Latin American politics?

[Answer] We are going to receive President Herrera Campins with open arms [words indistinct] an invitation we extended him almost at the beginning of the revolutionary process, but it is not until now that he has had the chance to come to Nicaragua. We are going to receive him like a true friend. We have a very tight agenda for him. He will visit Managua, Diriamba, Jinotepe, Niquinohomo and Granada and he will participate in (?numerous) events. We will accompany him during all these events.

[Question] How long will the Venezuelan president stay here?

[Answer] His visit begins on Saturday and concludes Monday at 0800, when he will say goodby with a news conference at Sandino Airport.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, doctor.

FAR STRESSES COMBAT READINESS AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

FL261638 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information Program Commentary]

[Text] For an indefinite length of time our fatherland will require an increasingly expanded defensive capacity, an ever increasing readiness, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has stated. He has also said: That capacity will depend on our people's readiness. In a few words, it will depend on the number of cadres our Revolutionary Armed Forces has and on the number of reservists prefectly trained for combat. Ever higher standards of instruction and training of troops is the principal task the armed forces are engaged in each year by means of programs that encompass theory and practice and are designed to augment and extend the learning and ability of its members.

Our proximity to Yankee imperialism, its constant aggressiveness against the Cuban revolution, the war hysteria it is fanning lately, and its plans to increase its military presence in several areas including the Caribbean, force us to remain vigilant. After the Sixth Nonalined Summit, the United States launched a new escalation of interference and provocation against our country, using as a pretext the alleged presence of Soviet combat troops in Cuba. With that fabrication, they tried to justify the resumption of espionage flights over our territory; they created a so-called operation command headquartered in Florida; they increased the number of troops, and they began war exercises at the Guantanamo Naval Base. Moreover, the government of James Carter ordered a reinforcement of troops in Puerto Rico, organized joint maneuvers with NATO countries in the Caribbean area, is arranging to set up a military base in Haiti--as charged by Haitian exiles in Mexico--and are trying to set up enclaves in other Latin American countries.

In the face of the triumph of the revolutions in Grenada and Nicaragua and the upsurge of struggle in other Central American nations and, in addition, the progressive processes in Jamaica, Guyana and other countries, the imperialists have stepped up their militaristic programs in the hemisphere.

Army Gen Raul Castro recently spoke of how the U.S. Government turned around much faster than any expert could have predicted in its policy and from some signs of realism which prevailed until just a few months ago, it has virtually returned to the cold war era. In view of this situation, the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] minister pointed out: Without alarm, serenely but without the least slackening, we have adopted the opportune measures and we must remain alert. Our combatants are trained on these principles. Day after day they receive the proper training in the technology and weapons that the people have placed in their hands and they sharpen their skills in the execution of the most complex maneuvers.

As our commander in chief has expressed: To be prepared in all instances, to be ready for anything is the daily motto of the members of the FAR, both active and on reserve. For them, perfecting their skills and raising their defensive capacity is the primary task, which they fulfill with abnegation and the firm determination to respond in kind to any attempted aggression against the socialist fatherland.

U.S. 'SPREADING LIES' ABOUT SOVIET CHEMICAL WARFARE

PA260428 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] In order to justify the warmongering campaign it is currently carrying out in various parts of the world, the Washington government has resorted to all types of lies and deceitful propaganda. [paragraph continues]

The New York TIMES recently reported that as a result of an accident in a bacteriological weapons plant there was an outbreak of a dangerous disease in the Soviet Union. With lies such as this the U.S. imperialists attempt to confuse international opinion and prepare the ground to justify the arms race they have intensified in the past few months and the cold war policy they are currently carrying out against the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union.

The truth is very different from what the most warmongering sectors of the White House loudly proclaim. A meeting of the countries which signed the agreement prohibiting the production and storage of bacteriological and toxic weapons has just concluded in Geneva, Switzerland. The Soviet Union, which initiated and promoted the campaign to ban such weapons, participated in the meeting for 3 weeks. During the meeting 90 countries examined the way that the signatory countries fulfilled the agreement's provisions, which have been in force since 1975. The results were fully satisfactory and the delegates at the meeting urged other countries to sign the treaty.

Besides its evident work in favor of the eradication of such weapons and its consistent struggle for detente and peace, it is a fact that the USSR has never used chemical or bacteriological substances against other peoples. However, it has been proved that the United States on several occasions used toxic compounds and pathogenic germs against its own people, causing epidemics or physical injuries to people in several U.S. cities. Those criminal actions were to test the destructive effects of weapons which years later were used by U.S. soldiers in the aggressive war against Vietnam. Those weapons sought to destroy the flora, fauna and all traces of civilization in that country.

Those who did not hesitate to use all types of weapons against millions of human beings are now trying to make suspicions fall on the Soviet Union. But the lie is so gross that even the U.S. press has recognized the skepticism with which public opinion has viewed the campaign of lies fabricated by the U.S. State Department regarding the so-called incident in the Urals.

A similar campaign on the alleged use of toxic chemicals in Afghanistan served as pretext so the U.S. Congress would approve a large military budget which includes the manufacture of new and more sophisticated chemical weapons. In this way, at the same time that it seeks to deceive public opinion and distort Soviet aid to Afghanistan, the United States is preparing special troops, promoting the arms race and creating new weapons to destroy mankind.

DELEGATES ADDRESS URUGUAYAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

FL251335 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 25 Mar 80 FL

[Excerpts] The conference of solidarity with the brother Uruguayan people which opened yesterday at Havana's Palace of Conventions will continue today and end tomorrow with a rally of Latin American solidarity. Many representatives of countries and organizations that are members of the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO] spoke at the conference. (Imade Jaddah), representative of the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, denounced Zionists' ties with the antidemocratic regimes of America, especially Uruguay's. (Christian) Gonzalez, chairman of the Chilean Solidarity Committee, said that the Uruguayan and Chilean peoples are facing the same system of fascist domination and together they will fight it. Speaking in the name of the Paraguayan Communist Party, Rogelio Gonzalez referred to fascism in America's Southern Cone and denounced the repressive dictatorships of Uruguay and Paraguay and called for concerted action against fascism.

Also speaking at yesterday's work session were Freddy Figueroa, representative of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and a representative from the People's Republic of Mongolia, who expressed the solidarity of their respective peoples with the Uruguayan patriots.

At the conclusion of yesterday's round table, Information Politica [name of newscast] interviewed Hugo (Villar), interim president of Uruguay's Broad Front, who expressed his opinions about this event sponsored by the AALAPSO. He told us: [begin (Villar) recording] the event holds great significance for us since this meeting organized by AALAPSO is being attended by representatives of those regions and their expressions of solidarity are, in the first place, a very important contribution to the goal of uniting the democratic peoples and governments throughout the world in the great task of isolating, confronting and defeating rascism. Therefore, in the particular case of Uruguay, this event contributes to the worldwide isolation progressively surrounding the Uruguayan regime. Secondly, the expressions of solidarity with the struggle of the Uruguayan people, the expressions of support for the huge international campaign for a general amnesty in Uruguay.[sentence as heard] [end recording]

Conference Continues

FL252033 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 19.0 GMT 25 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The conference sponsored by the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO] that is being held at the Palace of Convetions as part of the week of solidarity with Uruguay continued this morning with a dynamic session.

Liber Seregni and the political prisoners in Uruguay were the main topics covered at this session by (Geronimo Cardoso), a former captain in the Uruguayan Air Force. He emphasized that Latin American armies generally have been the armed branch of the oligarchies. He added, however, that the class struggle will not stop at the door of military garrisons.

Today's session was chaired by Elena Gil, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, and Melba Hernandez, secretary general of AALAPSO.

(Sergio Rivas), representative of the revolutionary coordinator [as heard] of El Salvador, also spoke during today's session of the conference that is part of the week of solidarity with Uruguay. After expressing solidarity with the Uruguayan people, the Salvadoran representative said: Assassinations in my country already have reached 1,000 so far this year and a new barbaric crime has been added to the list with the machinegunning of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

(Genaro Carnero Checa), secretary general of the Latin American Federation of Journalists, was the next speaker. He asserted: The journalists of our continent condemn this crime and others of the gorillas [gorilas] in El Salvador. The leader of Latin American journalists said his federation always has supported the Uruguayan patriots and demands the release of Liber Sergni and the other political prisoners including quite a few journalists.

Conference Ends

FL262154 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2131 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The Uruguayan people are not alone. All revolutionary, democratic and progressive peoples are on their side in their struggle against the dictatorship that oppresses them. Melba Hernandez, secretary general of the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization (AALAPSO), has made this statement in her closing remarks at the conference of solidarity with the Uruguayan people.

She added that prominent popular leaders remain in prison, including (Jaime Perez), (Raul Sendic), (Jose Luis Masera), (Hector Rodriguez) and many others who along with thousands of other patriots are subjected to inhumane torture and sentenced to many years of imprisonment.

In demanding the release of Liber Seregni, president of the Broad Front who has been held since 1973, the AALAPSO secretary general said this popular leader is an example of morality and dignity who transcends the borders of his country to set an example and style to be followed by the world's revolutionaries.

FASCISM, IMPERIALISM CONDEMNED AT CLASS STRUCTURE FORUM

FL262058 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2012 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The International Conference of Latin American Communist Parties on the theory of class structure in Latin America is continuing its sessions at Havana's Palace of Conventions with the participation of many foreign delegations.

Speakers this morning included Efrain Alvarez of the Communist Party of Ecuador, (Amilcar Denavente) of the Guatemalan Labor Party, Rogelio Gonzalez of the Communist Party of Paraguay, (Ramon Morera) of the Socialist Party of Chile and (Cleto M. Souza) of the People's Party of Panama.

In their speeches, the delegates referred to the existing class structure in Latin America and the Caribbean and the role they are currently playing.

This International Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Communist Parties sponsored by the Communist Party of Cuba and INTERNACIONAL magazine will continue until 28 March.

In the presentations to the delegates to the theoretical conference on the class structure in Latin American being held at the Palace of Conventions, the Latin American leaders have denounced the reemergence of fascism. They said that it is a manifestation of the imperialist interest in maintaining our peoples oppressed and subjugated at any cost.

They also condemned the role of Yankee imperialism and transnational companies which exploit and plunder the resources of Latin American peoples, increasing the latter's economic, political and social dependence.

The delegates to the theoretical conference on the class structure in Latin America stressed the manner in which the penetration of capital increases the exploitation of natural resources for the benefit of capitalist countries, especially the United States.

CPSU OFFICIALS VISIT FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

FL261224 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] The Soviet Union's delegation headed by Vasiliy I. Konotop, first secretary of the CPSU in Moscow and a member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, has visited the headquarters of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association here. The visitors were received by Prof Zoilo Marinello, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the association, Fernando Vecino, member of the Central Committee and vice president of the association, and Luis Felipe Vazquez, chief of the Central Committee's USSR section. In its visit to the association, the Soviet delegation also included Oleg (Doronchenkov), chief of the CPSU Central Committee's Cuba section and USSR ambassador to Cuba Vitaliy I. Vorotnikov. During the fraternal meeting, Prof Marinello spoke to the visitors about the work carried out by the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association on behalf of brotherhood between the two countries.

GRENADA

DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. FOR GAIRY EXTRADITION UNDERWAY

FL252325 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 25 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Grenada is reported to have [words indistinct] with requirements for the extradition of deposed Prime Minister Eric Gairy from the United States. The disclosure was made in Trinidad today by Grenada's Minister of Finance Bernard Coard who is in that country to attend a meeting of the regional airline--LIAT.

In a newspaper interview, Mr Coard was quoted as saying that American Justice Department officials had been in Grenada recently for discussions with government officials on the charges brought against Gairy. It is understood that the evidence supplied by the present Grenadian administration against the ousted dictator includes separate findings of an independent commission of inquiry set up by Gairy himself some years ago to probe the system of justice in Grenada.

The deposed prime minister, who was ousted by the New Jewel Movement a year ago, is wanted by the new administration to face trial on charges of murder and corruption.

JAMAICA

MANLEY UNEXPECTEDLY WITHDRAWS FROM SOCIALIST MEETING

FL261830 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] A meeting of the Socialist International to focus attention on economic problems of Third World countries began in the Dominican Republic this morning. Prime Minister Manley, who is the vice president of the organization and who was originally expected to attend, will not be taking part. Mr Manley was expected to use the occasion to seek international support for the government decision to discontinue negotiations with the IMF for a new agreement. Jamaica House sources say, however, several other initiatives to seek international support are being undertaken at various forums. In the absence of the prime minister from the Dominican Republic meeting, the PNP [People's National Party] is being represented by Senator Paul Miller.

The meeting is discussing the political situation in Latin America and the Caribbean and got underway with delegates speaking out against U.S. intervention in the region and the movement toward fascism. The JBC's [Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation] (Monica Horton-Campbell) is in Santo Domingo and filed this report a short while ago: [Begin (Horton-Campbell) recording] In an address to the conference a short while ago, former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez called for the condemnation of U.S. political and economic aid to the fascist government of El Salvador. In a statement condemning the assassination of Catholic Bishop Oscar Romero, Mr Perez called on the conference to reaffirm solidarity with the struggle of the people of El Salvador. He said Latin America and the Caribbean had reached the most dramatic stage of the struggle for human dignity. In his address, the leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, Pena Gomez, said it was being realized more and more that there could be no victory over imperialism in the area without the unity of the anti-imperialist forces. It's understood that prior to the conference, the U.S. had made diplomatic contacts aimed at securing a restrained reaction to the situation in El Salvador. However, it's expected that a strong statement will be made against U.S. military and economic intervention in the Latin American and Caribbean region. In this regard it's also expected that a strong statement will emerge in support of Jamaica in the difficulties it has faced with relation to the International Monetary Fund. Jamaica's representative to the conference, the PNP Senator Paul Miller, is to outline the Jamaican situation in detail to the conference later today. [end recording] (Monica Horton-Campbell) reporting from the Dominican Republic.

PRIME MINISTER TO MEET FIDEL CASTRO 26 MAR

FL262247 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Manley is due to leave the island about now for Santiago, Cuba, where he will discuss the present economic situation with President Fidel Castro who is also the president of the nonalined movement.

A statement from Jamaica House said the meeting is part of the round of consultations being carried out by the government with the international community. These meetings follow on the decision by the cabinet to accept the recommendation of the National Executive Council of the PNP [People's National Party] to discontinue negotiations with the IMF for a waiver and interim agreement.

Earlier today Mr Manley was due to go to the Dominican Republic, where there is a Caribbean assembly of Socialist International, a worldwide group of democratic socialist parties. He canceled this trip because of the civil service strike but the Jamaica House statement said he was proceeding to Cuba now that the strike has been settled. Mr Manley is due to return home late tonight.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO BE FULFILLED

FL261322 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Manley has asserted that the government has no intention of repudiating any of its financial obligations. Speaking in Parliament [yesterday] on the decision to discontinue negotiations with the IMF, Mr Manley said contact had already been made with the representatives of the international banking system with a view to rescheduling the country's debts.

[Begin Manley recording] Already contacts have been made with representatives of the international banking system with a view to commencing formal discussions on the question of the country's debt load in New York early next month. The house and the nation will be kept advised of developments in this and related areas from time to time. We intend to see to it that the foreign exchange necessary to the functioning of the country is available. We intend to maintain the highest possible level of discipline with respect to the management of the country's finances. The new minister of finance is fully alive to this responsibility and will make his own comments about this shortly when he introduces the carrying-on resolution. It was clearly understood by our NEC [People's National Party's National Executive Committee] and must be understood by the country that the development of an economic program outside of the scope of an IMF loan agreement is not (related) to self-indulgence or irresponsibility. It is, on the other hand, a challenge to responsibility, to national will and it will (offer) a clear prospect of a path to self-reliance through difficulties overcome by unity in struggle. [end recording]

The prime minister said that before the end of this week the government would be calling a meeting with representatives of the trade unions and the private sector to outline the specific proposals being contemplated by the government. Later, he said, meetings would also be arranged with sector groups, commodity producers and national interest groups on the matter.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS' STRIKE SETTLED

FL261906 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 26 Mar 80 FL

[Excerpt] The strike by civil servants island-wide was settled a short while ago at the Ministry of Labor and the workers are to return to their jobs tomorrow.

Under the back to work agreement, all layoff notices issued by the Ministry of Public Service are to be suspended until the findings of a committee set up to investigate the matter is published. The members of the committee have not yet been named but the committee is to start its work before Friday.

In addition, agreement has also been reached for the setting up of a special committee under the chairmanship of the former minister of labor, William Issacs, to examine the question of the appointment of temporary government workers with 3 years service. It's understood that an implementation date of the 30th of April has been set for the beginning of appointments.

CONCERN OVER U.S. EMBASSY'S CAMERAS QUESTIONED

FL241230 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Mar 80 p 7 FL

[GLEANER Editorial: "Our Frightening Security"]

[Text] We are unable to understand what motivated our minister of national security, who has remained strangely silent on the political violence in the corporate area, to not only write to the U.S. ambassador but to tell the government news media about his concern over the U.S. Embassy's planned closed-circuit television system.

For surely the question is one for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if indeed the government felt any concern about a foreign embassy's behaviour. We remember the contempt with which the government treated the opposition's expressed concern last year over a radio frequency accorded the Cubans. Then the concern had properly been raised by the opposition in a parliamentary speech. And the government's response was made in Parliament to the effect that other embassies had been given radio frequencies, so why not the Cubans.

In this case a paranoid anti-U.S. radio station makes the alarm, and the minister of national security jumps to attention and dashes off a letter to the U.S. ambassador. The question that bothers us is, if it were really a matter of security, why was there no reaction from the government's security minister until a JBC announcer made an issue of it?

We should hope that our security is made of sterner stuff than the shrill sensationalist shrieking from an electronic media.

Mr. Thompson owes Parliament and the public an explanation for his strange behaviour. He should tell Parliament and the country what is the threat from cameras for a closed-circuit television system on top of the Mutual Life Building, and why if it were a threat, there was no involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and why the U.S. ambassador was not called by that ministry and told of the government's concern.

For without this explanation, we are forced to conclude that the minister and a fringe in the media are playing political children games with our security if this is the level of our security. Jamaica's reaction must be more like that of the Duke of Wellington when he saw the obviously inferior newly recruited troops sent to him by his government: "I do not know if they will frighten the enemy, but by God, they certainly frighten me."